

State/local

FRANKFORT County school board will meet Monday

The Franklin County Board of Education will have a special meeting 7 p.m. Monday at Western Hills High School.

Some agenda items include voting on a geotechnical exploration and schematic design for a new elementary school; voting on a building and grounds application for Franklin County High softball restrooms; hearing a progress report on a Comprehensive District Improvement Plan; voting on a working budget for 2006-2007; and voting on a strategic plan implementation for one year.

Hot air balloon at Aviation Days

Blue Grass Energy, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, will sponsor the national Touchstone Energy hot air balloon at Frankfort Aviation Days 6 p.m. Friday at Capital City Airport.

A balloon glow is scheduled at dusk.

State road work underway here

A weekly highway report from the state Transportation Cabinet said there could be construction delays on Ky. 12 at a tributary to Flat Creek, 4.6 miles northeast of U.S. 421 at Saffell, due to a bridge replacement.

Also, lane closures and delays are possible on Ky. 1689 due to rock removal.

KSU's agriculture workshop is Thursday

A Pawpaw and Grape Field Day will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Kentucky State University Farm, 1525 Mills Lane. Drs. Kirk Pomper and Sanjun Gu from KSU will speak. Lunch will be served at noon, and a tour of the KSU research vineyard will begin at 2 p.m.

The field day is a part of KSU's monthly sustainable agriculture workshop.

Williams speaking Thursday

Nell Williams, of Irvine, will be the speaker and bring special music at a 6:30 p.m. Thursday meeting at 649 Charity Court, sponsored by Women in God's Service Ministries. All women are invited to this free presentation. Refreshments will follow and contributions are welcome.

Genesco reunion is Saturday

The annual Genesco reunion will be held Saturday beginning at noon at the Choateville Ruritan Building, Devil's Hollow Road. The event will feature a potluck meal at 1 p.m., music and fellowship. All former Genesco employees are invited. For more information, call 226-2684.

Perry, McAliley performing Sept. 24

Soprano Tina Perry and pianist Keith McAliley will present "Songs of Rest, Recollection, and Transcendence" 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, at Good Shepherd Church, Wapping Street. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information call 227-4511.

Candlelight Tour is honored

The Candlelight Tour, held each November in downtown Frankfort, has been named one of Kentucky's "Top Ten" winter/holiday events by the Kentucky Tourism Council.

A panel of impartial judges makes the selection for the council. Criteria for selecting include popularity of the event, its impact on the local tourism economy as well as cultural and historical significance.

The event began in the early 1980s when there were only a few restored shops in the downtown area. It has grown steadily across the years and now draws thousands of visitors.

A cyber-civics lesson

Kids mark Constitution Day with nationwide Web event

By **MOLLY WILLIAMSON**
State Journal Staff Writer

As two Pennsylvania girls appeared on screen, a Kentucky classroom came alive.

Students sat up and teachers yelled out a few directions.

Get ready.

Read slowly.

Chill and have fun.

Second Street School was on deck. It was following the Scranton State School for the Deaf in reading a section of the U.S. Constitution to commemorate Constitution Day.

Schools from across the nation read a portion of the document Friday to celebrate the day the Constitutional Convention signed the U.S. Constitution. Each school was allowed to creatively present its material, but the procession was quick. Schools were given a printout with the last line of the school before it, and the transition from school to school was supposed to be seamless.

As the Scranton girls finished with "that in which the two houses shall be sitting," Second Street social studies teacher Tom Edgett cued his students.

Seventh-grader Rodney Gross began reading and sixth-grader Aubrey Persons began threading her way through rows of her classmates. The other students sat in their chairs looking thoughtful, tapping their chins.

Aubrey, dressed in a white pillow sheet decorated with a flag, a hood and a paper plate saying "bill," made her way to the end of her classmates and was escorted to the "Office of the President." There, she, a bill, was vetoed.

She returned to her classmates, the legislature, and prayed for reconsideration. She earned a thumbs up and a necklace stating she was a law.

When the group finished its presentation and passed the screen to West Warwick High School in Illinois, the Frankfort High School room erupted in applause.

"I was really nervous at first, but after I started reading, I forgot about it and just went with the flow," Rodney said.

"America Reads The Constitution" is the latest in a number of projects Frankfort Independent Schools have done since receiving Internet 2 capabilities in February. They have virtually visited a marine biology lab,



State Journal/Suzanne Feliciano

Aubrey Persons, 11, center, dressed as a bill, was voted into law Friday by, from left, Matthew Carpenter, MacKenzie Sanders, both 11, Shara Roten, 13, and Garrett Barnes, 11, and other Second Street School students playing legislators. Readers recited parts of the U.S. Constitution for an Internet production called "America Reads the Constitution" televised from Frankfort High School.

interacted with students from Madrid and simulated riding on a roller coaster.

Frankfort is the first district to receive the technological capabilities in the state thanks to the Frankfort Plant Board, which built the district's bandwidth, and a partnership with the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

Frankfort is a pilot for other school districts, all of which will receive high bandwidth by June 30, 2008, according to \$30 million legislation passed last session. The goal is to create a universal education network for local school districts and universities. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville also already have the Internet 2 technology.

The participation in Constitution Day came about because Second Street Middle Grades Principal Cynthia Lawson told Tim Smith, district technology coordinator, that she wanted to do something for Constitution Day, something interactive that would make the day more meaningful to the students.

"Within minutes he wrote

back about this," Lawson said. "Mr. Smith's technological knowledge has opened up a new world for us."

Magpi, a networking consortium in Pennsylvania, coordinated the event and will compile the entire presentation, which schools can access online.

Second Street School will watch the entire broadcast Monday.

Frankfort has been good about not just using the high bandwidth capabilities as a "neat gadget," but incorporating it into the daily curriculum, said Tim Sizemore, product manager for the Kentucky Education Network.

Eventually, all schools will be able to use the increased bandwidth for online assessments and remote instrument operations—operating a microscope or telescope in another area of the country or world using robotics, as well as Internet 2, which makes videoconferencing possible, said Ann Riggs, chief public information officer for the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

As far as the Second Street

students know, they were the only broadcast that had an accompanying play while their students read the Constitution.

Originally the students planned to act out their section with different speaking parts and cap it off with a rap, but Magpi said they did not have that much time and the students had to just read their section.

So the classes scaled back and silently demonstrated how a bill becomes a law.

The skit was written by sixth-grader Garrett Barnes. Then, teachers Erin Peach and Edgett enhanced it, adding facial expressions and arm movements so it would be most effective when broadcast.

Teachers throughout the school pitched in, making backdrops, costumes, to get ready for the production.

Overall, everything went well, Peach said.

Luckily, students learn about the Constitution in fifth grade, so they were knowledgeable enough to create an effective skit, Peach said.

Plus, the school got one of the best parts of the Constitu-

tion, she said. It was easy to act out and pertinent to the students since they live in a state capital and deal with the legislature drafting and passing bills regularly.

So beyond getting out of school and cashing in their 15 minutes of fame, what did the students learn from this?

"The Constitution is very, very long," said Aubrey Persons, who was chosen to represent the bill because she was the smallest and would fit into the hot pillowcase costume, complete with hood, turtle neck and gloves. "It is a good document and obviously took a lot of time and effort to create."

"A bill can become a law even if the president says it's no good," Garrett Barnes said. "Sometimes the president knows best, but it is not entirely dependent upon him. He doesn't have total power because of the checks and balances."

"It is an important document and we should be glad for all the rights we have," said Mackenzie Sanders, sixth-grader.

Choateville, Swallowfield get into the festive spirit



Laura Freire played with her niece Hannah Varney, 4, before her band started Saturday at the Choateville Christian Church annual picnic. The picnic was held on the property purchased for the church on Devils Hollow Road.



Charlotte Stanley, 4, finished the last bite of her cotton candy during Swallowfield Days Saturday. The festival, sponsored by the Baptist Church and the Church of Christ, included live music, a car show, children's games and a bake sale.

Photographs by Amy Wallot